

What Is Claimed Is

1. An earth-working backhoe comprising

a) an open operator station having substantially unrestricted sight field to the earth,

5 b) a boom mounted for swinging movement side-to-side within the sight field from the operator station,

c) an operator-actuated control for the swinging movement of the boom, said control also being near the sight field from the operator station, and

10 d) a transparent guard blocking accidental access to the control from outside the operator station.

2. The backhoe of Claim 1 further characterized in that

a) said operation station has a floor and

b) said control is a foot-actuated control in proximity to the station floor.

3. The backhoe of Claim 2 further characterized in that

said guard extends from side-to-side of the operator station.

4. The backhoe of Claim 1 further characterized in that  
said guard is comprised of a shatter-resistant plastic material.
5. The backhoe of Claim 2 further characterized in that  
said guard is comprised of a shatter-resistant plastic material.
6. The backhoe of Claim 3 further characterized in that  
said guard is comprised of a shatter-resistant plastic material.
7. The backhoe of Claim 6 further characterized in that  
said guard is composed of a unitary sheet of plastic material.
8. The backhoe of Claim 3 further characterized in that  
said guard has a height less than the height of the sight field from the operator  
station.